

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## STUDY FIVE – JAMES 3:1-18

### **Read James 3:1-2**

1) James says "we all stumble" when it comes to our words. In what areas of your life do you find it hardest to control what you say? Think about different contexts: home, work, online, church.

2) James reserves a particular warning for teachers. Why do you think words carry extra weight when they come from someone in a position of influence or trust? Can you think of positive or negative examples of a the power of a leader's words?

### **Read James 3:3-8**

3) James uses vivid pictures – a horse's bit, a ship's rudder, a spark starting a fire. What do these images tell us about the power and destructiveness of the tongue? Where do you see this in your own words and words of others?

4) Verse 8 claims: "no human being can tame the tongue." What does it mean for how we approach change, if we can't tame it ourselves, what can we do?

## Read James 3:9-12

5) James highlights a huge inconsistency we have with our tongues. Where do you notice this inconsistency most in your own life? What is the true source of this inconsistency in our words?

## Read James 3:13-18

6) How do these verses help us know where the only solution to our heart/tongue problem is?

7) James contrasts two kinds of wisdom — one earthly, one from heaven. Look at the list in verse 17: Which of these qualities do you need to ask God most for wisdom to impact how you speak?

8) In verse 13, James ties wisdom to humility. How does humility change the way we speak to and about others? Think of a specific relationship — what would humble speech look like there?

9) Verse 18 ends with a beautiful promise: "What would it look like for your words — this week, in one specific relationship — to bring a harvest of righteousness rather than sparks of fire?"



**NEXT WEEK - JAMES 4:1-12**